

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 168737  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:KDROBINSON

-----015969 040522Z /23

O 040143Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 8212

S E C R E T STATE 168737

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 20972 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN,  
LONDON, MOGADISCIO, ADDIS ABABA, JIDDA, KHARTOUM, DJIBOUTI,  
AND MOSCOW DATED JUNE 20, 1978.

QUOTE: S E C R E T PARIS 20972

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, SO, ET, FR

SUBJ: HORN OF AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 147850

1. ON JUNE 29 WE DISCUSSED LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE  
HORN AREA WITH QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR  
CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA, MARIE-CLAUDE CABANA, AND LEFT  
BEHIND PAPER BASED ON TALKING POINTS REFTEL. CABANA  
(WHO HAD PUT OFF A MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT BECAUSE OF  
PREOCCUPATION WITH ZAIRE DEVELOPMENTS AND THE POST-  
PONEMENT OF THE SIAD BARRE VISIT TO FRANCE) WAS  
PLEASED TO HAVE AN UPDATE ON US HORN POLICY WHICH SHE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 168737

SAID WOULD BE USED IN PREPARING FOR GISCARD'S MEETING  
WITH SIAD BARRE NOW RESCHEDULED FOR JULY 11. (SIAD  
BARRE WILL SPEND ONE ADDITIONAL DAY IN FRANCE, EITHER  
THE TENTH OR TWELFTH. (ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT IS  
BEING HELD OFF FOR SECURITY REASONS.)

2. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT FRENCH INTENTIONS

AS REGARDS ARMS DELIVERIES TO SOMALIA, CABANA SAID THAT THE FRENCH POSITION IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE US: ANY ARMS PROVIDED WOULD BE OF A DEFENSIVE NATURE (SHE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS) AND WOULD BE PROVIDED ONLY WHEN FRANCE IS ASSURED THAT SOMALIA IS PREPARED TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. DURING SIAD'S VISIT THE GOF INTENDS TO STRESS THE NEED TO KEEP THE DJIBOUTI-ADDIS RAILROAD FREE FROM ATTACK. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOF IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO HANDLE SOMALIA CAREFULLY. THERE ARE CONSTRAINTS ON WHAT THE WEST CAN DO IN TERMS OF ARMS, BUT IF SOMALIA IS NOT GIVEN SOME DEGREE OF ASSURANCE IN THIS AREA, THE FRENCH FEEL THAT SOMALIA COULD IN DESPERATION TURN BACK TO THE SOVIETS. THERE ARE MANY PERSONS STILL IN HIGH POSITIONS WHO WERE PERFECTLY COMFORTABLE WORKING WITH THE SOVIETS BEFORE AND WHO MIGHT BE AGAIN. IF SOMALIA WERE TO PATCH UP RELATIONS WITH THE USSR, THE WEST WOULD BE CONFRONTED WITH A DANGEROUS SITUATION OF SOVIET CONTROL OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE RED SEA--PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE SOVIET'S ENHANCED POSITION IN THE PDRY.

3. TURNING TO MORE GENERAL GOF HORN POLICY CABANA SAID THAT PRESERVATION OF DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE REMAINS THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION BOTH BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH OBLIGATION THERE AND THE COUNTRY'S INTRINSIC  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 168737

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERLINED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE YEMENS. FRENCH CONCERN OVER DJIBOUTI'S INDEPENDENCE HAS OBLIGED FRANCE TO FOLLOW A POLICY OF EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. FRENCH CARE IN PRESERVING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ADDIS REGIME SEEMS TO BE PAYING OFF IN TERMS OF REDUCED ETHIOPIAN PRESSURE ON DJIBOUTI BUT MAY ALSO HAVE SOME BROADER BENEFIT FOR THE WEST IN THAT IT PRESERVES SOME SLIGHT WESTERN OPTION FOR ETHIOPIA. FRENCH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE EPMG ARE QUITE NORMAL. CULTURAL AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS CONTINUE AND THE GOF IS PRESSING THE EPMG TO PERMIT THE RETURN OF THE FRENCH CONSUL TO DIRE DAWA. (THE CONSULATE WAS NEVER CLOSED, BUT THE CONSUL WAS ASKED TO LEAVE FOR "SECURITY REASONS" ABOUT THE TIME OF THE CUBAN BUILDUP IN THE OGADEN.) A HIGH-LEVEL ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION WILL VISIT FRANCE AFTER SIAD BARRE'S DEPARTURE. THE FRENCH SUGGESTED A VISIT AS PART OF THEIR BALANCING ACT, BUT IT WAS EAGERLY TAKEN UP BY THE EPMG. THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED BUT THE FRENCH UNDERSTAND ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING HANDLED PERSONALLY BY MENGISTU.

4. IN CONCLUDING MEETING CABANA SAID THAT FREQUENT  
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THIS AREA OF FAST MOVING  
DEVELOPMENTS IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE.  
HARTMAN UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE168737  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** IO/UNA:BJSHARP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780275-0018  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780797/aaaadega.tel  
**Line Count:** 121  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 1abd7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 147850  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2122214  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HORN OF AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS  
**TAGS:** PEPR, MASS, US, FR, XW, ET, SO, DJ  
**To:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1abd7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014